



AIA Seattle “AIA150 On the Water” Initiative

AIA150 Blueprint for Architecture Grant Application March 2006

Title of Initiative

AIA150 On the Water:

Mobilizing Community Design Projects on Waterfronts throughout the Greater Puget Sound Region

Summary of Initiative

Projects initiated by various constituencies within AIA Seattle beginning in 2004 have established a focus on the connection of Puget Sound communities with water – at all scales: from wetlands-sensitive residential development to watershed reclamation programs (e.g. the Duwamish, a Superfund site in Seattle’s South Park community) and harborfront initiatives in cities along Puget Sound -- including major urban design opportunities around Seattle’s central waterfront in the quest for alternatives to the aging and earthquake-damaged Viaduct.

Through a series of community workshops, publications, and conferences, AIA Seattle and partners -- various community groups, kindred design and building organizations, students in the state’s two schools of architecture and K-12 youth – AIA150Seattle will highlight architects’ community endeavors and collaborations to achieve livable communities, using care for water resources as a guiding principle. The “AIAmobile,” envisioned as a multi-functional mobile adjunct to AIA Seattle’s publicly accessible storefront facility, will deliver workshop infrastructure (orientation and policy guidance materials, recording elements, etc.) to workshops in locations throughout the area.

The AIA’s Walking Working Water (WWW.Seattle) Conference in mid-September 2006, and a multi-organization (Project for Public Spaces, ULI, AIA) Great Places Conference slated for June 2007 offer key timepoints for surfacing of “AIA150 On the Water” elements.

Community issues addressed

Ongoing projects already in place have brought together diverse constituencies to consider future directions for waterfront communities. Architects demonstrate their ability to advise their fellow citizens on issues of sustainability, design alternatives, public policy alternatives (stemming from the City of Seattle’s notable and nationally-recognized sustainability endeavors, and Washington State’s passage of landmark green building legislation in the 2005 session). With burgeoning urban populations, major suburban growth, issues of livability have become paramount for many Washingtonians, and for their elected leaders and a wide range of governmental units.

Component interface with community leadership

Again, AIA Seattle efforts already under way have consciously included community leaders. For instance in the case of the AIA Seattle Diversity Roundtable’s program in South Park – a critically-located community on the Duwamish watershed, adjacent to the Boeing plant – King County and Seattle City Councilmembers took part in a June 2005 tour of a design/build project by UW architecture students, and again in the January 2006 community design workshop that took further steps in discovery and resolution of key community design issues facing South Park residents and public decision-makers.

The planned AIA Conference, Walking Working Water in Seattle September 14-16, 2006 will advance waterfront planning issues – particularly the Seattle central waterfront – in concert with the AIA Center for Communities by Design, R/UDC, COTE, and Housing Knowledge Communities. AIA national and local entities, along with counterpart design and building industry organizations, will assemble panels of national, state, and local elected and staff leaders to engage in envisioning the future of this critical area.

Community-wide benefit

Given the number and variety of projects that fit under the rubric “On the Water” in which architects and design professionals have already engaged, we foresee that communities throughout the Puget Sound region and Washington can share a vision of their individual and combined futures – Seattle urban neighborhood waterfronts (including Ballard, Wallingford, and the University District along the canal that connects Lake Washington and Lake Union to Puget Sound; downtowns with water connections including Mercer Island and Bellevue and the island communities in Puget Sound e.g. Bainbridge and Vashon Island; Puget Sound coastland communities, and many others. AIA Seattle proposes to support and highlight a range of “small, medium, and large”-scale projects, each with an AIA Seattle architect Member as Project Manager. Over the processes of envisioning, developing, executing, and learning from serial community workshops, perhaps thousands of citizens will engage with hundreds of architects. We foresee wide benefit from the action and the documentation of “On the Water” projects.

Visioning Process

In addition to and coordination the efforts of the various community-based groups already in action, AIA Seattle has assembled a diverse, prestigious and knowledgeable AIA150 Strategy Team, with AIA150 Champion **Peter David Greaves AIA** (also AIA Washington Council 2006 President) at the helm. The Strategy Team also includes AIA Seattle 2006-07 President **Walter Schacht AIA**, 2007-08 President **Lee G. Copeland FAIA**, AIA national Diversity Committee members **Clarence Kwan AIA** and **M. Mario Campos AIA**, AIA Seattle COTE CoChair **Marc Jenefsky AIA** and CoChair *Emerita* **Amanda Sturgeon AIA**, Guemes Island waterfront activist **Lisa Kennan-Meyer AIA**, **Julie Montgomery AIA**, AIA Disaster Assistance Committee member and AIA Seattle (post-Katrina) Mississippi Missionary **Rachel Minnery AIA**, AIA150 Champion **James O. Jonassen FAIA**, Ballard Waterfront Project Manager **Elaine Wine AIA**, S/DAT & Sustainability Task Force member **Daniel Williams FAIA**, R/UDAT *Emeritus* **Jerome R. Ernst FAIA**, AIA Seattle Hon. Member **Ellen Southard**, AIAS-UW leaders **Ada Rose Williams** and **Sam Mesikepp**, Denice Hunt K-12 Interns 2005 **Greg Squires** and **Mark Haizlip**, and UW Architecture Professors **Dr. Sharon E. Sutton FAIA** and **Steve Badanes Assoc. AIA** – whose students’ community service projects have lain the basis for several of the community programs.

Relation to AIA Public Policies and Livability Principles

As a basis for establishing and developing advocacy based on ‘on the water’ projects, ‘AIA150 On the Water’ communications – event announcements, workshop materials circulated and delivered via the “AIA mobile,” AIA Seattle weekly CURRENT EVENTS eNews, the AIA150 portion of the AIA Seattle website, monthly ‘On the Water’ features in *The AIA Seattle Architect* print newsletter, and documentation of ‘On the Water’ workshop and events – will also include references to relevant AIA Public Policies and Livability Principles.

The AIAMobile will assist and support architects’ effectiveness (and their application of AIA public policies and livability principles) in directing, facilitating, and recording community workshops, and at the same time will provide a visible representation of AIA and the AIA150 program. The budget will support modifications as required to an ecologically responsible vehicle, envisioned as a rolling advertisement for AIA150 and a visible expression of community outreach, helping delivery not only AIA150 “On the Water” but other AIA150 associated projects and AIA Seattle programs, throughout 2007, 2008, and beyond.

Sustainability

The 'On the Water' theme naturally lends itself to considerations of resource conservation, social economics, and environmental sustainability. The region's history of water-related public concerns – from Indian fishing rights on the Columbia River and various Puget Sound location, to the early-20th-century construction of the Montlake Cut connecting Seattle's in-city lakes to the Sound, to a major clean-up of Lake Washington in the 1960's – has created a legacy of environmental consciousness and a number of highly effective "green" groups that have helped achieve landmark state and local legislation. Beginning in 1999, the AIA Seattle COTE has conducted an annual collection, review, and documentation sustainable design in various aspects, expressed in the What Makes It *GREEN?* Conference convened each April, with published proceedings.

Collaboration

Again, AIA Seattle has initiated 'On the Water' in collaboration with architecture students at the University of Washington College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP) in the lead on several projects. Their work – supported by the Denise Hunt K-12 Internship at the UW CAUP established and endowed by the AIA Seattle Diversity Roundtable – further involves architecture students' outreach to K-12 youth on their projects.

Conversations with elected and staff leaders of allied organizations – APA, ASLA, IIDA, Seattle Architecture Foundation and others – began with meetings in 2005 and have intensified as of March 2006, at the time of this application. The [WWW.Seattle](#) and Great Places conferences provide critical points for "AIA150 On the Water" highlights and disciplinary interchange – and a basis for ongoing work in 2007, 2008 and beyond.

Schedule/Timeline

March 06	Exchange Among Allies: AIA Seattle's annual assembly with design and building industry colleagues focuses on 'AIA150 On the Water' opportunities, well received
April 13, 2006	"On the Water" KICK-OFF/Thos. Jefferson's Birthday
April-June 06	AIA150 'On the Water' Strategy Team meetings, including collaborators
June 06	Summer Solstice Sequence: developing next round of South Park work
July-August 06	Community workshops
September 06	WWW.Seattle Conference
October 06	Round II Planning
Jan-June 07	Community workshops
June 07	Great Places Conferences/development of 2008 implementation plans
June-Oct 07	Community workshops
November 07	Round One wrap-up

Budget/Round I

Community project workshops: announcement, facilities, catering, recording	\$5,000
Development/maintenance of AIA150 'On the Water' web site	\$5,000
Documentation/publication of 'On the Water' workshops and projects	\$5,000
Equipment of 'AIAMobile' as workshop support system	\$10,000
Conference planning/coordinating (WWW.Seattle 9/06 and Great Places 6/07)	\$2,500
Support to 'AIA 150 Strategy Team' activities (meetings, site visits)	<u>\$2,500</u>
Total budget	\$30,000
Grant request, AIA Blueprint for America	\$15,000
AIA Seattle and other sponsoring organizations contribution	\$15,000